

THE AIR RAID SHELTER PROGRAM IN THE SOVIET BLOC

1. Introduction: The USSR has an extensive civil defense system which has steadily increased its activities since 1948. At present the system is being reorganized to gear it to atomic weapon defense.

The Soviet civil defense organization includes permanent staff officers of Local Air Defense, a branch of the MVD, who are assigned at all levels of government down to districts within cities. The nucleus of urban civil defense crews include medical, police, firefighting, utility and service organizations. Residential and factory civil defense teams are organized by the paramilitary DOSAAF (Society for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force, and Navy) which is also responsible for training the general population. These organizational arrangements are now largely complete in urban areas. Civilians are obliged to take civil defense training and to accept operational assignments.

The European Satellites have developed similar civil defense systems under Soviet direction.

2. The Shelter Program, 1949-Present: The Soviet Bloc has engaged in a program of shelter construction while developing civil defense organization and training. Since 1949, shelter construction in the USSR has progressed steadily. For example, in the construction of new apartment houses, stores, theaters and other public buildings, basement air raid shelters of the type shown in Figures 1 and 2 are included. Continuing construction of these shelters was recently confirmed by observations of the U.S. housing delegation.

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These basement shelters are designed to withstand collapse of the building,

having a reinforced concrete ceiling six inches or more in thickness and provided with sanitary facilities. Gas proof construction, double hermetic doors and filter ventilating mechanisms (See Figure 3) provide protection from gas attack. Blast traps and dust filters are now to be incorporated to counter effects of atomic explosion.

In addition to basement shelters, some detached shelters (See Figure 4) have been built. Evidence indicates that important factories, railway stations, and public buildings have been provided with even stronger shelter facilities and that heavy shelters are available to key Party and Government personnel.

There are some indications that the USSR is considering some type of evacuation, possibly combined with dispersed shelters. Current civil defense instructions, however, still direct the general population to utilize locally available shelters.

Similar programs are being carried out in the European Satellites. In Czechoslovakia, for example, large shelters have been prepared under hills in and near major cities (See Figure 5). Some are refurbished World War II shelters; others are of new construction. Reports indicate a shelter-building program has been underway for several years at factories, railway stations and river ports. New apartment construction includes basement shelters and shelters are being added to suitable existing buildings.

Additional civil defense construction has included static water tanks, reservoirs and swimming pools for emergency fire-fighting purposes. Underground storage depots and fuel tanks are also reported under construction.

Some underground construction has taken place outside major Satellite cities probably for the protection of essential government offices and personnel.

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3. Cost of Bomb Shelter Construction Program: Actual expenditures are hidden within budget figures. To gain some appreciation of cost magnitudes the following estimates have been made:

In the USSR, from 1951-55, some 2.5 million new apartment flats were built. Evidence indicates that bomb shelters were provided for the occupants. The net additional construction costs for these shelters is estimated at \$1.5 billion. In 1956-60 the number of new apartments is to approximately double that of 1951-55, raising the net additional construction costs to about \$4.5 billion for this ten year period. It is emphasized that this figure is related to new apartments alone. (Minimal shelter at an estimated \$120 per person would cost \$9.6 billion for the USSR's 80,000,000 urban residents.)

4. Intentions: It is believed that the Soviet Bloc will continue to include shelters in new building construction. At the same time it seems evident that more heavy underground construction will take place in suburban areas for the protection of essential elements of the government and dispersed civil defense disaster crews.

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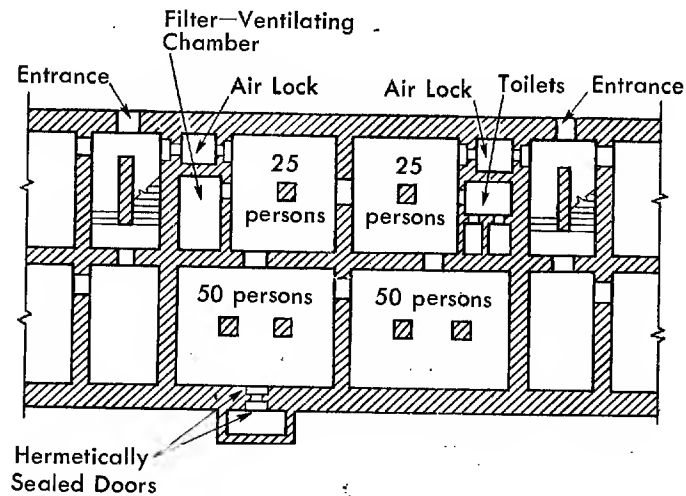
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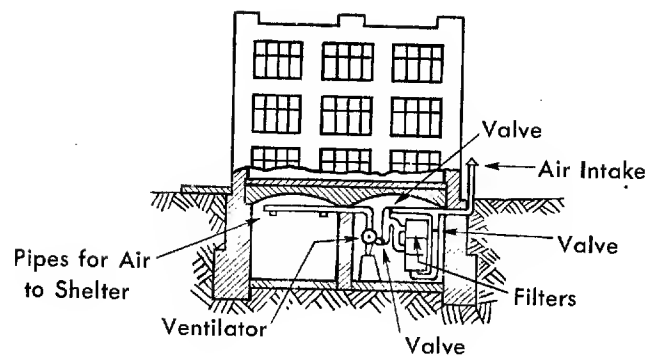
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Figure X 1

SKETCHES OF APARTMENT SHELTERS IN THE USSR



FLOOR PLAN

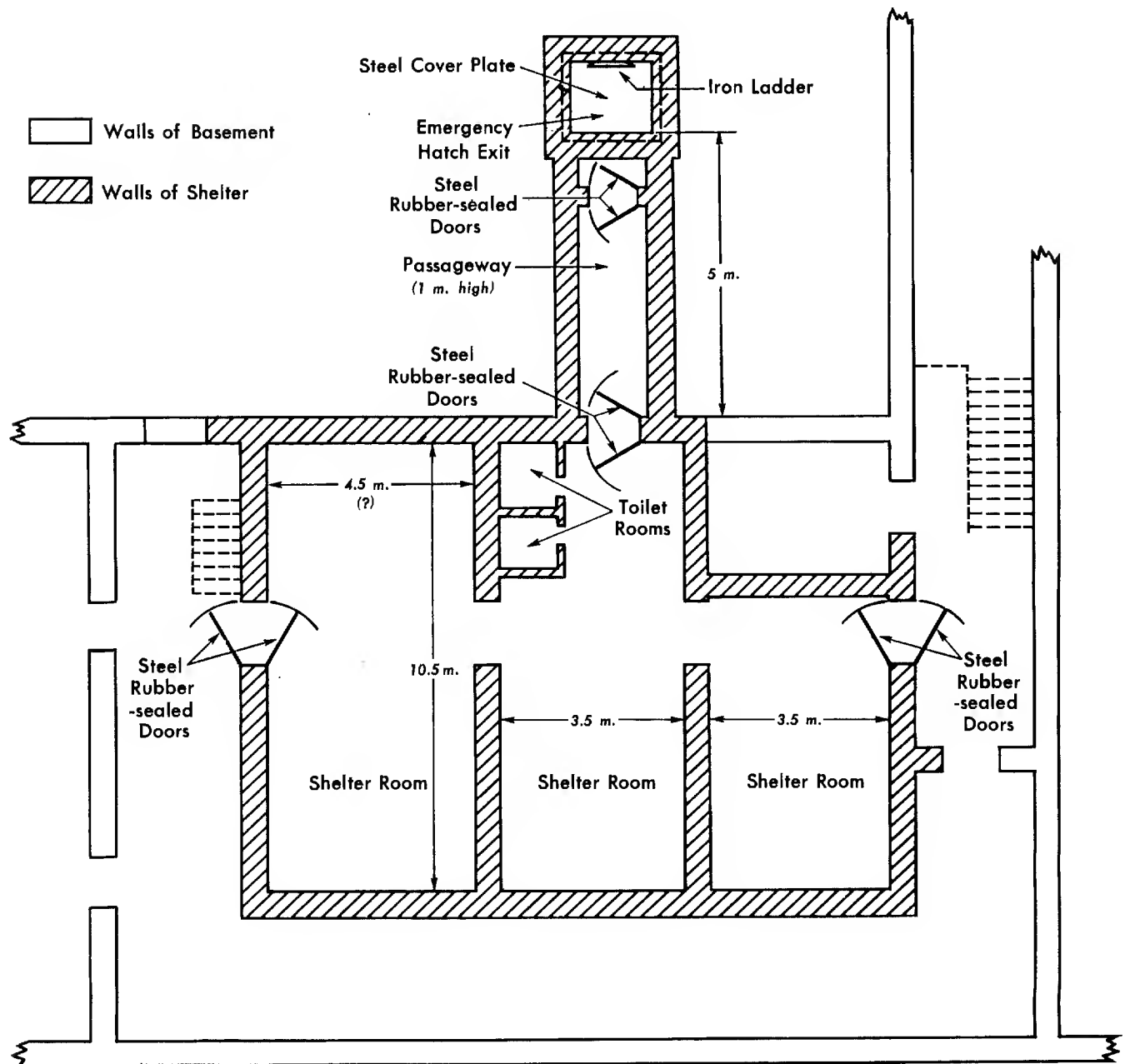


VENTILATING SYSTEM

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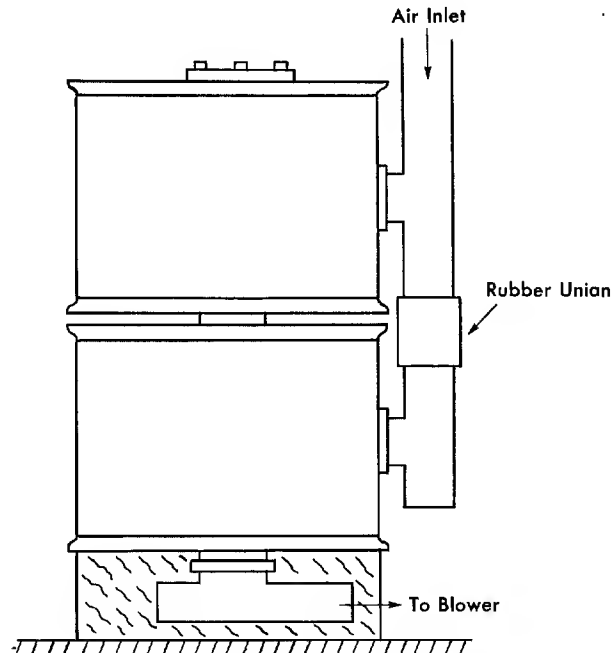
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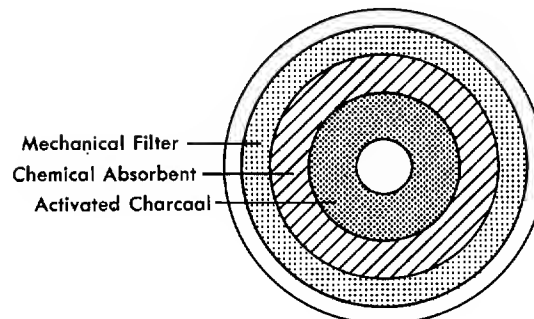
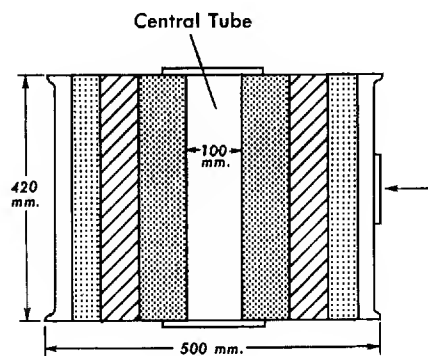
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SOVIET GAS FILTERS

Figure 3
-Figure 5-



FILTER-SORBENT FPU-100



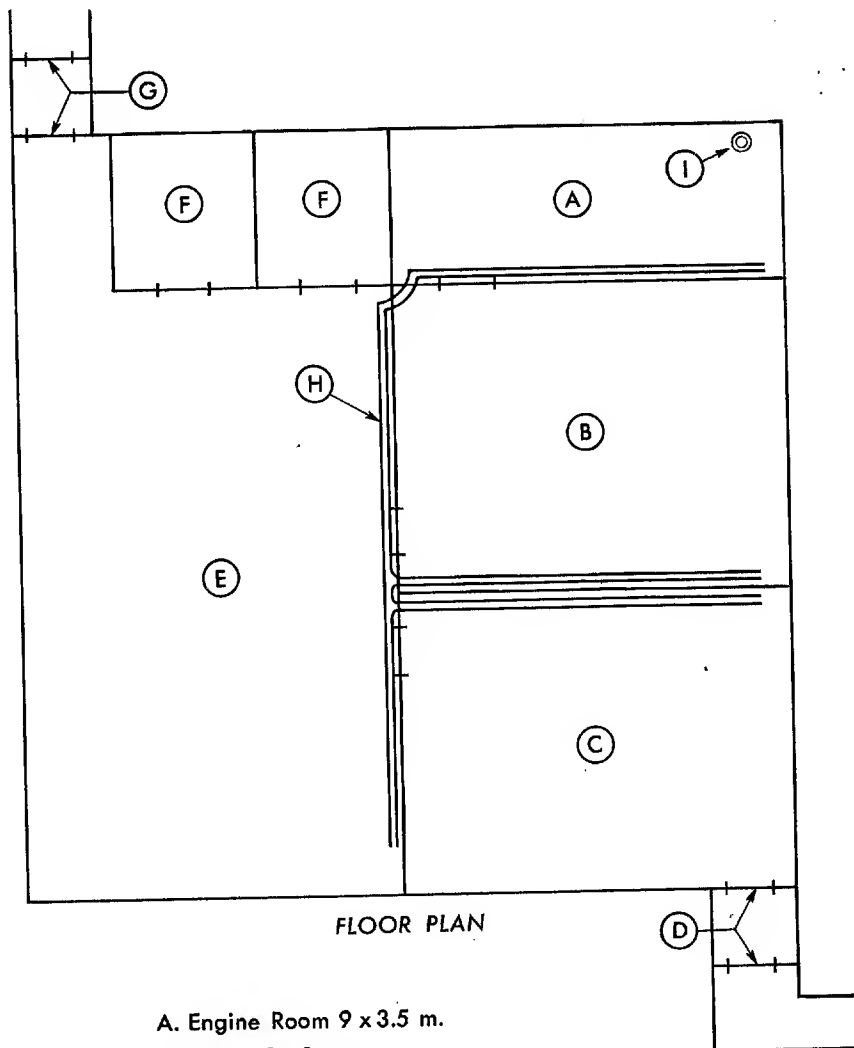
SCHEMATIC CONSTRUCTION OF FPU-350

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Figure ~~3~~ 4

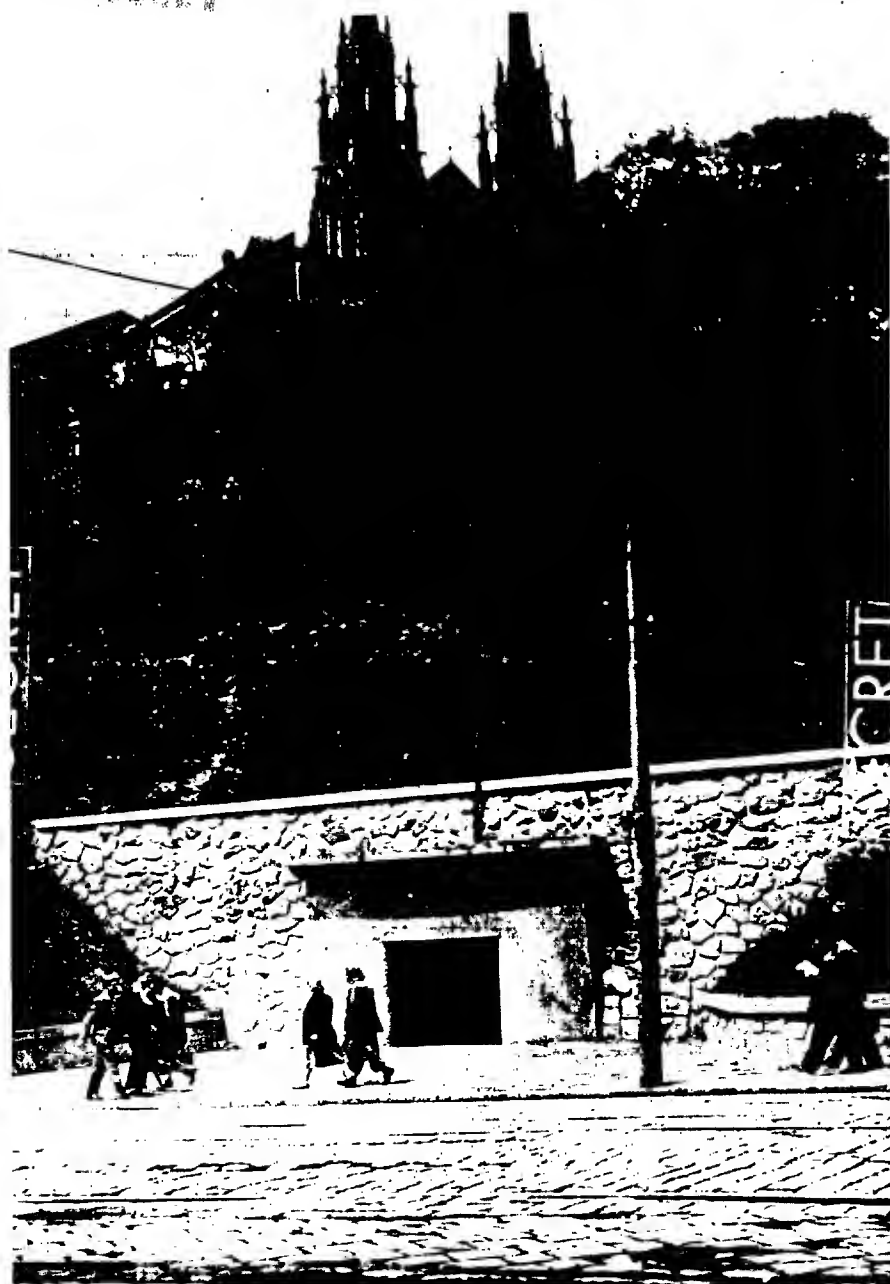
SKETCH OF DETACHED AIR-RAID SHELTER

(Stalino)



- A. Engine Room 9 x 3.5 m.
- B. Room, 9 x 8 m.
- C. Room, 9 x 8 m.
- D. Gas Trap, Steel Doors
- E. Room, 9 x 16 m.
- F. Toilets
- G. Same as D.
- H. Ventilating System, 150 mm. dia. Sheet Metal Tubes
- I. Ventilating Shaft, 300-400 mm. dia

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Entrance to Reported Air Raid Shelter
Brno, Czechoslovakia

Figure 5

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